Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00245 011302Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05
/062 W
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R 011155Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1740
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 245

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDY STATEMENT JULY 31

1. BOTH LOCAL MORNING NEWSPAPERS, BBC NORTHERN IRELAND AND NATIONWIDE BBC TODAY HIGHLIGHTED A STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY JULY 31 ON NORTHERN IRELAND. IRISH NEWS WITH CATHOLIC READERSHIP IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE LED WITH HEADLINE "KENNEDY REASSURES N.I. PROTESTANTS." BELFAST NEWS LETTER WITH PROTESTANT CIRCULATION LED FRONT PAGE WITH HEADLINE "HINT OF US ACTION ON THE CONFLICT IN ULSTER" WITH SUB-HEAD: "PROTESTANTS HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR CLAIMS KENNEDY."

2. IRISH NEWS STORY FOLLOWED HEADLINE IN CONFINING STORY TO STATEMENT AND QUOTING SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS WHICH APPARENTLY EMPHASIZED THEME THAT "IN THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD IT IS IMPORTANT FOR IRISH AMERICANS TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO REASSURE THE PROTESTANTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE IRISH AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND THAT WE ARE AS CONCERNED TO REACH A SETTLEMENT THAT RESPECTS THEIR BASIC RIGHTS AS WE ARE TO SECURE THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE MEMBERS
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OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY." IN ANOTHER EXTRACT THE SENATOR IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IT IS CLEAR....THAT THE SEARCH FOR PEACE CUTS ACROSS SECTARIAN LINES IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE SPONTANEOUS ORIGIN AND THE DRAMATIC SUCCESS OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT, LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, DEMONSTRATED THE POWERFUL DESIRE FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE ORDINARY CITIZENS OF NORTHERN IRELAND BOTH

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PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLIC." SENATOR ALSO ANNOUNCED PUBLICATION LIBRARY OF CONGRESS STUDY ON PROTESTANT IRISH HERITAGE IN AMERICA.

3. NEWS LETTER ARTICLE WAS WIDER RANGING AND MORE SPECULATIVE. IT CITED "FOUR SIGNIFICANT US/IRELAND DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED (OVER WEEKEND) THREE OF THEM IN DUBLIN." IN ADDITION TO BRIEF SUMMARY OF KENNEDY STATEMENT, NEWS LETTER CITED: (A) CHANGE OF POLICY IN NEW IRELAND MOVEMENT FROM FAVORING 32-COUNTY IRELAND TO EXPLORATION INDEPENDENT NORTHERN IRELAND, (B) ARTICLE IN DUBLIN SUNDAY PRESS HINTING AT A "MAJOR PEACE INITIATIVE" WITH COMPONENT AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO BOTH COMMUNITIES, AND (C) "EIRE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY DESCRIBED PROJECTIONS OF AMERICAN ARMS RUNNING CLAMPDOWNS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AS VERY HOPEFUL."

4. COMMENT: WITH POSSIBLE MINOR EXCEPTION PHRASE "PEACE WITH JUSTICE" WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS PROVISIONAL IRA GRAFFITO, SENATOR'S STATEMENT AS REPORTED STRUCK JUST RIGHT NOTES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 1438895
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Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDY STATEMENT JULY 31
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, EI, (KENNEDY, EDWARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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